

There are many varying definitions pertaining to what exactly is a “White Christmas”. Some definitions use only snowfall data, while others use only snow depth data and yet others which use both data sets to define a “White Christmas”. In the following “Christmas Facts” data, compiled from the Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Alamosa climate records, we have defined a “White Christmas” as greater than 0.5 inches of snow falling on December 25<sup>th</sup> with at least 1 inch of snow on the ground. In any case, the chances are not very good if you are wishing for a “White Christmas” across much of Southeast Colorado.

## **Christmas in Pueblo**

<b>Normal High</b>	<b>Normal Low</b>	<b>Record High</b>	<b>Record Low</b>	<b>Lowest Maximum (Coldest High)</b>	<b>Highest Minimum (Warmest Low)</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>72 in 1971</b>	<b>-10 in 1983</b>	<b>14 in 1983</b>	<b>37 in 1892</b>

## **SNOWFALL**

**Record Snowfall:** 5.1 inches in 1987

Number of times with a trace or more.....**18**

Number of times with an inch or more.....**7**

Climatological chance of a trace or more...**15%**

Climatological chance of an inch or more...**6%**

## **SNOW ON THE GROUND**

**Record Snow on Ground:** 6.0 inches in 1983.

Number of times with a trace or more.....**18**

Number of times with an inch or more.....**11**

Climatological chance of a trace or more....**30%**

Climatological chance of an inch or more...**18%**

The last “White Christmas” occurred in 2000. The snow began falling shortly before midnight Christmas Eve, with only trace amounts reported through the morning hours. The snow began to pick up during the afternoon hours and ended shortly before midnight, with a total snowfall of 1.8 inches. The previous last “White Christmas” then occurred in 1987. There was 1 inch of snow on the ground at 5 am that morning, with a record total of 5.1 inches falling for the day. The last time before that was in 1976. There was 1 inch of snow on the ground that Christmas morning, with an additional 0.6 inches falling that day. Since 1888, there has been only two separate occasions where snow has fallen on consecutive Christmas: in 1911 and 1912, and again in 1941 and 1942.

Snowfall records are in inches, from 1888 to the present.  
Snow on the ground is at 5 am MST, from 1948 to the present.

## **Christmas in Colorado Springs**

Normal High	Normal Low	Record High	Record Low	Lowest Maximum (Coldest High)	Highest Minimum (Warmest Low)
41	14	67 in 1971	-15 in 1983	16 in 1962, 1987	34 in 1929

### **SNOWFALL**

**Record Snowfall:** 2.3 inches in 1911

Number of times with a trace or more.....**18**

Number of times with an inch or more.....**6**

Climatological chance of a trace or more.....**16%**

Climatological chance of an inch or more.....**5%**

### **SNOW ON THE GROUND**

**Record Snow on Ground:** 7.0 inches in 1982

Number of times with a trace or more.....**27**

Number of times with an inch or more.....**17**

Climatological chance of a trace or more.....**44%**

Climatological chance of an inch or more.....**27%**

The last "White Christmas" was in 1987 when there was an inch of snow throughout the day, along with an inch of snow on the ground in the morning. Before that, the last "White Christmas" was in 1976 when there was an inch of snow during the day and an inch of snow on the ground in the morning.

Christmas Day 1994 brought an unusual surprise to the North end of Colorado Springs, and the area northward to Castle Rock. At 1206 pm, a 4.0 earthquake rocked the region, shaking houses and buildings with no major damage reported.

Snowfall records are in inches, from 1894 to the present.

Snow on the ground is at 5 am from 1948 to the present.

Snow depth records missing for 1996.

## Christmas in Alamosa

Normal High	Normal Low	Record High	Record Low	Lowest Maximum ("Coldest High")	Highest Minimum ("Warmest Low")
33	-3	60 in 1942	-27 in 1974	12 in 1991	28 in 1971

## SNOWFALL

**Record Snowfall:** 3.5 inches in 1942

Number of times with a trace or more.....**17**

Number of times with an inch or more.....**8**

Climatological chance of a trace or more.....**22%**

Climatological chance of an inch or more.....**10%**

## SNOW ON THE GROUND

**Record Snow on Ground:** 10.0 inches in 1991

Number of times with a trace or more.....**44**

Number of times with an inch or more.....**35**

Climatological chance of a trace or more.....**57%**

Climatological chance of an inch or more.....**45%**

The last "White Christmas" was in 2007. There was 6 inches of snow on the ground at 5 am that morning. While no snow fell during the day, it began to fall around sunset with a total of 2 inches falling through the evening. The last time before that was in 1997 when there was six inches of snow on the ground at 5 am that morning, and a total of 1.1 inches falling for the day. The last time before that was in 1987 when there was 3 inches of snow on the ground that Christmas morning, with 2.4 inches falling that day.

Snowfall records are in inches, from 1932 to the present.

Snow on the ground is at 5 am MST

(7 am MST from 1984 - 1991 due to part-time staffing).